



NEWS NOTES

Quarterly Publication of the Southern Maine Library District

Spring 2009

SMLD Board News



Steve Russo, Director of the Rice Public Library in Kittery, was appointed to fill a vacancy for public library representative when Thomas Bennett of the Prince Memorial Library

resigned earlier this year. Russo was formerly with the Hollis Social Library in New Hampshire. His library affiliations and memberships include serving on the boards of the Public Library Association and the Central New Jersey Regional Library cooperative. He is a recipient of ALA's John Sessions Award.

May Trustee Meetings

Does your public library board have a plan to assess its effectiveness? Are trustees clear about their responsibilities vs. those of staff? Who should speak at budget hearings and town meetings?

The Maine Library Trustee Association and the Maine Regional Library System are sponsoring a series of Forums in multiple locations. SMLD programs are being held at the newly-renovated Freeport Community Library on May 12 and the spacious new York Public Library May 19 from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Meetings are free and open to all trustees. Register at <http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>.

SMLD LISTSERV

Anyone who signs on to the SMLD listserv will be entered into a drawing for special book prizes to be awarded at the May 29 SMLD Council Meeting. FMI see the SMLD home page. Giveaways, meetings and other important news are listed **ONLY** on the SMLD listserv.

SMLD May 29 Council Meeting

Hurry and register for this information-packed meeting about new technology -- and much more!

IT Petting Zoo: Technology Fair for Library Staff Friday, May 29, 2009 ~ Portland

Not only will you learn about the latest in library technology in the opening session, but you can sign up for small group sessions on

- A) "Downloadable Audiobooks" with Infonet Director James Jackson Sanborn
- B) "Technology: Putting it to Work" with Peggy O'Kane, Maine State Library
- C) "Swapping, Buying and Selling Online" with John Clark, Hartland Public Library
- D) "Open Source Products" with Janet McKenney, Maine State Library

The morning poster sessions will include the new digital Talking Books program, technology discount sources, Kindles, Playaways, Wikis and Wordl, Facebook and St. Joseph's new online reference statistics system.

\$25 fee includes morning refreshments and buffet lunch with vegetarian choices. See details and register at <http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>.

IMPORTANT: Please remember to indicate your workshop choices on the registration form.

Library Commission Studies State Library's Role

Commission members are investigating the Maine State Library's current and future responsibilities in respect to its three target audiences: state agencies, libraries, and citizens. They are also studying the services provided by other state libraries around the nation. **Inese Gruber**, Windham library director and SMLD representative to the Commission, is chair of the citizen committee.

SCOOP Statewide Purchasing Cooperative

A new list of vendor discounts for books, furniture, and equipment will be posted later this spring on the Maine State Library website, effective July 1, 2009 to June 2012 <http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/districts/scoop.htm>. Passwords to the site have not changed. Contact the SMLD Office if you need further help.

Statewide Liaison Committee

A final report with recommendations for the Maine Library Commission is being prepared by this committee made up of regional district board members and district consultants. Representatives of Maine professional and statewide organizations have been solicited for their opinions about library issues, problems and solutions for the future; a summary of their responses will be contained in the report. Topsham Library Director and CMLD board Chair Susan Preece is serving as committee chair.

PPL Construction on Target

It has begun! Walls have been added and others removed, and all public desks and collections moved to the 1st floor. Most of the books are now housed off site (although still obtainable by request). If you plan to visit the library, be aware that there are lane closures on Congress and Elm Streets which can slow traffic flow during rush hour. As work moves forward on Phase I, additional funding is being solicited for Phase II.



Makeover Libraries Selected

Public libraries in Acton, Bingham, Ellsworth, Norway, and Southwest Harbor have been selected from among this year's applicants for a makeover – a one day event by a Makeover Team consisting of district consultants, staff from Tucker Library Interiors, and local participants. Each library will receive a written report and a small stipend.

Children's Book Week

The Association for Library Service to Children has a free online toolkit with activities, planning tools, and artwork for Children's Book Week (May 11-17).

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/initiatives/kidscampaign/kidstoolkit.cfm>

Literary Map of Maine Online Book Discussions

Elizabeth Strout, Pulitzer Prize winning author of Olive Kitteridge, participated in the January online book blog hosted by the Portland Press Herald. The blog features titles in the Literary Map of Maine – a listing of adult and juvenile books with Maine settings.

Gary Schmidt, author of Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, will be one of the commentators for the May blog. His YA historical novel, which won a Newbery Honor and a Maine Lupine Honor, is based on the true story of a community's destruction in 1912.

The alternate May title is Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island by Linda Greenlaw. Made famous by the book and film "The Perfect Storm," it tells of the author's return home to lobster with her father.

June title: Cider House Rules by John Irving. New titles for the online map will be accepted until June 1.

FMI see the Portland Press Herald's website <http://pressherald.maineretoday.com/>

Around the District

Spaulding Memorial Library repeats its successful auction – decorated chairs and benches -- Aug. 22.

North Bridgton Public Library will hold a June celebration in recognition of its 100th anniversary.

Via the City of Westbrook, **Walker Memorial Library** accepted Warren Memorial Library collections after the Warren Memorial Trust announced it was discontinuing support of the **Warren Memorial Library**.

Paula Paul, **Steep Falls Public Library** Director, has announced plans are underway for a library addition that will include a children's area, community meeting room, kitchen, and handicapped accessibility.

Using MELIBS Wisely

To reduce traffic on MELIBS: 1) Be careful with the "Reply" feature – some messages should be sent only to one person – not the whole list 2) Local programs may not belong on the listserv. If you are overwhelmed with the number of messages, try signing up for the Digest form of MeLibs. FMI and usage tips see <http://www.maine.gov/infonet/listservs.htm>

Links & the Library Website

Do you have lengthy lists of links on your library's website? Does anyone check that the links still work? Do your patrons use the lists? These questions were addressed by York Public Library staff and discussed at a recent SMLD Reference Librarians Meeting.

Conclusions: 1) Most patrons, students and faculty do not use these sites. 2) A list for staff may be more useful than one for patrons. 3) The webliography on the SMLD Bare Bones List of Reference Resources is useful. 4) Patron lists should be brief and user friendly.

Family Place Libraries

The **McArthur Public Library** in Biddeford and **Walker Memorial Library** in Westbrook are the recipients of Family Place grants which will be used for early literacy training, furnishings, collections, and programming. "Family Place Libraries," based in Long Island, New York, provides training for librarians throughout the country.

Available for loan from the District Offices are FP **early literacy kits** with replicable play items and instructions.

SMLD Stipend Awarded

The SMLD Board awarded children's librarian **Jan Hamilton, Prince Memorial Library, Cumberland**, the 2009 SMLD continuing education stipend. It will help with costs for attending the 2009 American Library Association conference. Later this year, Jan will present a SMLD workshop on the ALA programs "Leap into Science" and enhancing story times.

Where in the World is ...

Tim Sample? A cardboard cut-out of Tim Sample, the Maine humorist who has been a spokesperson for the MARVEL resources, has been traveling from library to library. The display is being used to encourage library patrons to ask about MARVEL. He has been to Eliot, South Berwick, Kittery and is working his way north. FMI see the "public relations resources" page on the Maine State Library website.

Updating Library Info

The Maine State Library directories are widely used so it's extremely important to keep the information current.

Please make changes for your library as necessary at <http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/changes.htm>

Van Delivery Service

Maine State Library is changing the delivery service provider. NCS Logistics from Scarborough will be taking over from Velocity at the end of June. An email was sent to current participating libraries.

People

New appointments

Annika Black, Youth Services, Bridgton Public Library

Erika Jordan, Director, Kezar Falls Circulating Library

Karen McNutt, Director, Richville Library, Standish

Recognition

Beth Edmonds, Director of the Freeport Public Library, has been appointed an "at large" member to the Maine Library Commission by Gov. John Baldacci.



Calendar

Please register for all SMLD programs and workshops on the statewide WebJunction Maine Library Community Calendar -

<http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

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| May 6 | Orientation for New Public Library Directors
Maine State Library, 8:45 - 3:15 |
| May 12 | Public Library Trustee Forum. Freeport
Community Library, 7 - 8:30 pm |
| May 14 | Public Library Directors -- Chattering Cheeses
Falmouth Memorial Library, 9:30 - 12 Noon |
| May 15 | Meeting for Reference Librarians. "Going Green with National Library of Medicine."
Curtis Memorial Library, 9 am - 12 Noon |
| May 19 | Public Library Trustee Forum. York Public Library, 7 - 8:30 pm |
| May 29 | SMLD Spring Council Meeting. Keeley the Katerer, Portland; 9:30 - 3:30 |
| June 9 | Public Library Directors' Institute. Auburn Public Library, 9:30 - 3:00 |

SMLD Children's & YA Book Review. Portland Public Library, 10:15 am - 12 Noon. Dates: May 13, June 10